

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 10, 2004. In the Office Action, (i) claims 37-42 were rejected judicial double patenting doctrine, and (ii) claims 41-42 were rejected under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph.

Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 37-42 were previously pending. Claim 41 has been amended by this response. Claims 43-58 have been added. No claim has been cancelled by this response. Accordingly, claims 37-58 are currently at issue.

Of those at issue, claims 37, 49, and 53 are independent claims.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this response.

I) Information Disclosure Statement

Section 2 of the Office Action indicated "Applicant is expected to file an IDS listing the references cited in the parent case."

Applicant previously filed an information disclosure statement on 10/17/2003 listing the references cited in the parent

patent application that has now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,609,193. We received a stamped return receipt postcard indicating it was received by the USPTO on 10/21/2003. A copy of the IDS filed on 10/17/2003 is attached hereto as Appendix 3. A copy of the stamped return receipt postcard is attached hereto as Appendix 4.

However, the serial number was mistyped as 10/615,618 on these documents so the IDS filed on 10/17/2003 has not been matched to the file for this application, Serial No. 10/615,918.

Applicant has filed a new information disclosure statement herewith using the proper serial number 10/615,918 and listing the references cited in the parent patent application that has now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,609,193. Consideration of the IDS filed herewith is respectfully requested.

II) Claim Rejection - Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejection

Section 4 of the Office rejected claims 37-42 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Claims 12-15, 17, and 18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,193.

Applicant herewith provides a terminal disclaimer executed by William W. Schaal, Reg. No. 39,018 attached hereto as Appendix 5.

Mr. William W. Schaal is an attorney of record as indicated in the DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION mailed in the parent patent application and filed coincidentally with the filing of this continuation patent application referenced above.

U.S. Patent No. 6,609,193 and the present continuation patent application are commonly owned by Intel Corporation.

Applicant believes that the terminal disclaimer now makes this rejection moot and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the judicial double patenting rejection of claims 37-42.

III) Claim Rejection – 35 USC 112, second paragraph

Section 6 of the Office Action rejected claims 41 and 42 as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has amended a typographical error in dependent claim 41 so that it is now dependent from claim 40. Claim 40 provides antecedent basis for “powerdown logic”.

Claim 42 depends from claim 41.

Applicant believes that this amendment makes the rejection now moot and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 41-42.

IV) New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 43-58 of which, claims 49 and 53 are new independent claims.

New claims 43-48 depend indirectly from independent claim 37. As Applicant believes that independent claim 37 is in condition

for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 43-48 with added limitations are also in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 49 recites all the elements of independent claim 37 as well as some additional limitations partly from dependent claims 38 and 43. As independent claim 49 has additional limitations over that of independent claim 37, it is respectfully submitted that claim 49 is also in condition for allowance.

New claims 50-52 depend directly from independent claim 49. As Applicant believes that independent claim 49 is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 50-52 with added limitations are also in condition for allowance.

New independent claim 53 recites all the elements of independent claim 37 within a microprocessor that is coupled to a memory. As independent claim 49 has additional limitations over that of independent claim 37, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 53 is also in condition for allowance.

New claims 54-58 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 53. As Applicant believes that independent claim 53 is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 54-58 with added limitations are also in condition for allowance.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 43-58 are in condition for allowance.

V) Title Amendment

Applicant has amended the Title of the application to --
PIPELINED INSTRUCTION DECODER FOR MULTI-THREADED PROCESSORS--.

It is believed that the amended title of the application is more descriptive of the invention currently being claimed in independent claim 37.

VI) Drawing Amendment

Applicant has amended the formal drawing of Figure 7 to be consistent with the as-filed informal drawings. The heading over the "Clear (x)" equation in the formal drawing of Figure 7 reads as "Clock for any pipestage X" which is inconsistent with the as-filed informal drawings. It should properly read as --Clear for any Pipestage X-- instead.

Attached as Appendix 1 is one sheet of a clean drawing of amended Figure 7. Attached as Appendix 2 is one annotated sheet of the drawing of amended Figure 7 to show the drawing amendment made thereto.

As this amendment is supported by the as-filed informal drawings, it is believed that no new matter is added by this amendment to the drawing of Figure 7.

Applicant respectfully requests acceptance of this amendment to the formal drawing of Figure 7 by the Examiner.

VII) Specification Amendments

Applicant has amended the specification to update the status of the parent patent application as being issued in the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION section.

Applicant has also amended the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE section to be more descriptive of the current invention being claimed in claim 37 and its dependent claims. The word count of the clean abstract should now be 149 words under the current word count limitation to the abstract.

The paragraph beginning at page 26, line 12 corresponding to paragraph [0047] of the published application was amended to add an instance of the word "invalid" to be consistent with the first sentence of the same paragraph in that "bubbles of invalid instructions" are squeezed out with the bubble squeeze algorithm.

It is believed that no new matter is added by these amendments to the specification.

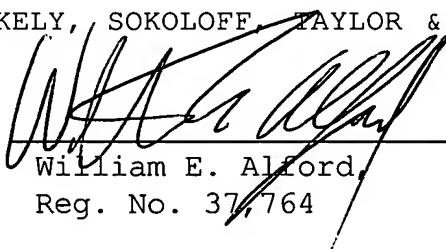
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned counsel by telephone at (714) 557-3800 to expedite the prosecution of this case should there be any unresolved matters remaining. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



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Dated: February 10, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: February 10, 2005.

Tu Nguyen

2/10/05
Date